



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN MAN INDICTED FOR METH CONSPIRACY, FIREARMS AND IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican national was indicted by a federal grand jury today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, as well as firearms and immigration violations.

Jose Castellanos, 36, a citizen of Mexico living in Kansas City, was charged in a five-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Castellanos** participated in a conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine between Jan. 1, 2005, and Feb. 23, 2006.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Castellanos** was in possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine on Feb. 23, 2006.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Castellanos**, being an illegal alien, was in possession of a Taurus 9 mm pistol, a Davis Industries .32-caliber pistol, 9 mm Luger ammunition, Winchester .380 ammunition and Winchester 9 mm Luger ammunition on Feb. 23, 2006. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for an illegal alien to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Castellanos**, having been previously deported from the United States on March 12, 2000, reentered the United States and was found in the United States on Feb. 23, 2006.

Count Five of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Castellanos** to forfeit to the United States any property derived from the proceeds of the violation alleged in Count One, including \$62,368 that was seized by law enforcement officers.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen D. Mahoney. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Metro Drug Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html